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General and complete disarmament: towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms

Letter dated 23 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the position of the Republic of Kazakhstan in regard to the international arms trade treaty (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 98 (e).

(*Signed*) Byrganym **Aitimova**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 23 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Position of the Republic of Kazakhstan in regard to the international arms trade treaty

The Republic of Kazakhstan believes that the international arms trade treaty should be legally binding and set the basic parameters of control over arms trafficking, and should not permit any exclusive right of any country over arms trade but should allow monitoring by the signatories of the treaty with a view to preventing arms trafficking.

In addition, the scope of the treaty should be expanded to cover not only conventional weapons but also individual and personal arms, such as rifles, pistols, grenades, which are at present not included in the Register of Conventional Arms and which are most commonly used in the commission of crimes against the civilian population.

At the same time, an important part of implementing the treaty must be the development of a mechanism to monitor the transaction and transfer of arms in the so-called grey areas, which are located outside the regime of conventional arms control, and where conflict is occurring or has taken place in the recent past.

Kazakhstan is of the view that the treaty must be supported by the development of a strategy for its implementation and the adoption of a monitoring mechanism to assess its enforcement, including procedures for marking arms and ammunitions. It is also important to resolve the issue of defining penalties and sanctions against States that do not fulfil the treaty's obligations.